

Andrews Trial Juror Discovers Wallet Is Lost from Hip Pocket

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Walter T. Niklaus of Algiers was sworn in Friday afternoon as a juror for Dean Andrews' perjury trial.

Minutes later, his wallet was missing. It may have been the target of a pickpocket in the courtroom.

Niklaus, who carried his billfold in the left hip pocket, discovered its disappearance shortly after being ushered from the jury selection courtroom to the trial courtroom one flight up. His escorts were

uniformed deputies of Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr.

A hasty search of the lower courtroom was fruitless, deputies said. They theorized that Niklaus either had his pocket picked in the courtroom or that the wallet slipped out of his pants while he was sitting down waiting to be called as a juror and an unidentified person "retrieved" it.

Other persons in the courtroom included dozens of prospective jurors empaneled to serve before the Criminal District Court.